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THE PUERTO RICAN MIGRATION/

PUERTO RICO SIEMPRE EN NUESTRO CORAZON

July 10, 2008

PUERTO RICAN PARADE
HONORING OUR PAST

6:00 pm.
presentation will
my [redacted] explain (briefly)
[redacted] Puerto Rican experience;
as we travel to the continental U.S. from
P.R. yet manage to retain
our beautiful big islands
in our hearts and minds.
Siempre llevamos a nuestra
cuna en nuestro corazon.

where do we come from. How today's P.R. came to be.

[redacted] The people of Puerto Rico weave [redacted] distinctive ethnic identity from three historical traditions: Spanish colonial, Afro-Caribbean, and [redacted]an. Puerto Rican cuisine, religious beliefs, and other identifying components of [redacted] expressive culture draw heavily upon Spanish [redacted] Afro-Caribbean traditions. [redacted] Puerto Ricans share rituals and practices with [redacted] neighbors throughout Latin America as well as with English- and French-speaking peoples of the Caribbean; yet Puerto Rican educational, political, and economic systems have had to incorporate many North American features owing to U.S. domination since 1898. Puerto Ricans identify strongly with [redacted] homeland, [redacted] history, and [redacted] place in the Caribbean. Although Puerto Ricans have a legal claim to U.S. citizenship, [redacted] rarely refer to [redacted] as "Americans," even while residing on the U.S. mainland. Puerto Rican attachment to [redacted] islands has endured despite large-scale [redacted] migration to the main[redacted] since 1917, the year [redacted] were granted citizenship status (largely because the War Department wanted legal grounds to enlist Puerto Ricans into the World War I endeavor).

[redacted] incorporating urban street-s[redacted] methods and [redacted] into their ways of life.

Our love for P.R is so strong, that even our children, born here, adore P.R. My children born here, regularly visit P.R. and Katelin, my youngest is now a student at IAU in S.G.
The first thing they learned to say was "Bendicion" y todavia me piden la Bendicion. Eso es un tesoro inigualable por otras culturas.
Just listen to Marc Anthony's rendition of "Preciosa" and you will understand, just a bit.

We are basically a bilingual nation, as we speak Spanish and English and sometimes even Spanglish.

Para que los SEPAS, nene!!

We have migrated so much so and we have given birth to so many beautiful faces - blancas, trigueñas, negras e indias - that we now number 3,987,[redacted] 776 in the continental U.S. and only 3,927,[redacted] in the islands of P.R.

If we had not had the value of migration, we easily would have 8 million P.R.'s P.R. itself presently.

Nevertheless, P.R. remains one of the most densely populated nations in the world.

IRONICAMENTE, los emigrantes de P.R. hacia [redacted] aquí en las últimas decadas, representan una perdida intelectual y afecta negativamente a P.R.

37% of the recent migrants from PR are professionals. 46.9% are between 20 to 34 yrs. old, which are the most productive years of a person.

Actualmente, VIVAN nos bonicuas en ciudad N.Y. que en San Juan, PR.

P.R.s were made citizens in 1917 because the WAR Dept wanted to draft us into W.W.I. & segregated infantry regiments were created there for.
Some 350,000 P.R. registered for military service in W.W.II. 65,000 were called.
In 1945 there were 13,000 P.Rs in N.Y. City but after the war, there were 700,000 by 1955. By 1960's there were over 1 million, including my parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and me in N.Y.C.

Identity is critical for P.Rs. The P.R. flag is the most widely sold flag in the whole wide world. We know who we are, but upon coming here many experience racism, and other forms of discrimination. Some adjust and some do not. This results in mental problems, addictions and a total downing of family values. Yet many persevere and do preserve our culture.
A wonderful example is my guy who is a Past President of the P.R. Parade "Mike" Rodriguez, who persevere in the tradition of the "Novena" - whereby we pray to the 3 Reyes Magos to help us overcome problems or diseases.

He also has established, along with some others, including me, organizations such as Club de Leones, CURA, Casa Don Pedro, Facies, etc.

Another great example of overcoming difficulties is the Reyes family. Their father began Reyes Auto Sales on Broadway, Newark and now mills down a car repair garage, another owns an auto parts store, another is a professional police officer in Newark and Rene owns the auto dealer. It shows that family strength is necessary to achieve success.

The P.R. migration began in earnest in the 1940's and has continued to the present. Many in P.R. were attracted to the new factories, but it was not enough to provide jobs for all who needed it. Many thousands then came to the Continental U.S., especially New York, N.J., Chicago, Philadelphia and the tomato, grapefruit, fields in many states, especially in N.J. the tomato, cranberry and other farms.

Many helped the farmers such as Obama's mother Rosa Maria Lugo de Nagel who became a teacher in the Cities of N.J. and Philadelphia teaching English to our jibaritos y [illegible] ayudar a escribir su correo en P.R.
Don Pedro, quien fue Presidente de este Colegio formó con a laboratorio largo por los años agricultores mil y hasta.

The migration also increased in the 1980's due to a severe economic recession in P.R. In the last few years the migration to Fla. from P.R. has been very high. Nevertheless Orlando P.R. is small so far.
By now P.R.s are first generation such as me, second generation such as Jackie Quiles and my kids or 3rd generation such as my gorgeous 2 granddaughters, 2 grandsons and soon a new granddaughter.

P.R.s are involved in all areas of life in the continental U.S. From the director of the moon shots at NASA to doctors, lawyers, businesspersons, farmers, soldiers, firemen, judges and even criminals.

Migration has been encouraged by the P.R. and U.S. governments for their own purposes.

Presently the high unemployment in P.R. is helping fuel the migration. It will get worse with the increases in prices of gas, food and other products.

Unfortunately in the year 2000 PRs in U.S. had a poverty rate of 26%, which was one of the highest in any ethnic group.

U.S. companies, police depts., colleges, etc. regularly recruit in P.R. and help reduce unemployment or underemployment in P.R.

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Some **Major Ideas**

1 • The Puerto Rican presence on the mainland dates back to the late 1800s; a Puerto Rican community took root in New York City in the early decades of the twentieth century.

2 • The Jones Act of 1917 made Puerto Ricans U.S. citizens without their consent, served to spur migration (since it was unrestricted), and made Puerto Ricans eligible for the military draft.

3 • Most Puerto Ricans migrated because of economic factors, including inadequate employment opportunities in Puerto Rico and the lure of better opportunities on the mainland.

4 • Like other immigrants, Puerto Ricans have had to adjust to a new culture, experiencing hardship and discrimination in the process.

5 • Many Puerto Ricans have maintained strong ties to Puerto Rico, its culture, and its language; the back-and-forth movement in response to fluctuating economic conditions has strengthened such linkages.

6 • Many Puerto Ricans have encountered racial prejudice and discrimination on the mainland; their perceived linkages to other people of color have been strengthened as a result.

7 • Changes in the economic structure of the U.S. have limited opportunities for upward mobility for more recent (in)migrant groups.

8 • Like the culture of other (in)migrant groups, Puerto Rican culture on the mainland shows evidence of both continuity and change from the home culture.

9 • Puerto Rican responses to the challenges they face on the mainland have included organizing to: support their political views; improve public education; and build pride in their heritage and language.

10 • Puerto Ricans' labor has contributed to the economic growth of the United States.

11 • Puerto Ricans as a group share much with other Latino groups, including close ties with their homeland. This closeness results from greater accessibility to their homeland, economic fluctuations that lead them to move back and forth, and continued reinforcement of their culture and language through contact with new migrants. Puerto Ricans and other Latino groups also share a legacy of sustained racial and ethnic discrimination.

from www.oah.org

— Nevertheless the majority of P.R.s do travel to P.R. or at least used to — nowadays the super high airplane ticket prices and the high cost of gambling in P.R. have affected the return to P.R. either for vacation purposes or permanent return to P.R.

— Our love for our islands does not diminish with time, nor because we achieve success, nor does it diminish because the economy may be poor in P.R. Actually our love for P.R. grows. It grows with the older generation and the new generations. This event is a perfect example of the fact that we endeavor to express our love of P.R., anytime, anywhere, before anyone.

I am so proud that young barrio, jaiberos guys, has taken the leadership of this organization that I want to acknowledge today with a big round of applause.

I am proud that
~~that~~ a young female P.R.
can achieve any dream; however
her dreams always
include P.R. and the
P.R. culture.

Que Dios los bendiga
recuerde a cada uno de
ustedes =
May God bless each one of
you richly.

Gracias, Thank you.

Y ¡AL ARTE BORICUA!!
¡Que viva P.R.!

Don't forget to attend the
N.J. P.R. Solidarity Parade
on Broad St. Newark NJ
on Sunday Sept 21, 2003

Como nosotros siempre soñamos
regresar a nuestra bella patria
y yo siempre sueño y estoy
de nuevo con mi AD puntas
ahora le dejamos con el Valle de Collores
poema "~~[illegible]~~"
por el insigne Luis Llorens Torres.

La bailarina profesional
Leyda Perez interpretará en ballet
el poema "[redacted]" "Valle de Collores"
y también ella es la
princesa 2007 de Santa P.R.
del Desfile Estatal P.R. de
N.J.

El poema es
declamado por el
Sr. Anderson Quiles, orgulloso
padre de nuestra Presidenta
Jaquie Quiles

—o —o — o o

Después de unas breves
palabras a Jaquelin Quiles
Presidente del Desfile
Estatal P.R. de N.J.